Hill

7s

Boston, May 20 1869

Dear Sir

28 I have just received a letter from my father Mr Hamilton Hill, who is now in England, but who was for many years Treasurer of Oberlin College, from which I make the following extract;

"If you have time before you leave Boston, I want you to call on Mr Garrison with a message from me. Some weeks since I received a letter from Mr Dawes; among other things he told me that Mr Garrison was writing a History of Slavery in the United States and that he had asked Mr Keep and himself to supply some particulars of their mission to England. Perhaps they have done so by this time; but for a time their views clashed with reference to the motives which induced the English people to respond so handsomely. Mr Dawes considers that it was the anti slavery feature of the Oberlin institution, while Mr Keep thinks that it was the religious state and self denial of those connected with the institution which chiefly influenced the donors. When I wrote to Mr Dawes, I told him that my opinion and that of my wife coincided with his. I sent my friend George Sturge Mr Dawes's letter, and told him what I had said to Mr Dawes on this subject. I will now copy a few lines from Mr Sturge's reply, and this is what I want Mr Garrison to know, for it is the more important as coming from that source, for from the Sturge family and through their influence, Keep and Dawes

obtained much the larger part of the donations. Mr. Sturge writes, "as to the chief cause of our sympathy with the mission of Kelly and Dawes, I consider William Dawes is right; it was its anti-slavery character, and it is likely also that the novelty of the endeavor to overcome the prejudice against color assisted."

As you have no office in town, I believe, and as I am busy with preparation for a short vacation on the other side of the Atlantic, I shall not be able to call upon you, as otherwise it would have given me pleasure to do. I presume that you will be interested in the foregoing statement of my respected father. The mission of Messrs Kelly and Dawes therein referred to, had an important bearing upon my own life, for it led to the removal from London to Oberlin, of my father's family including myself. My parents had been earnest friends of the anti slavery cause; and as soon as they heard of Oberlin, they became interested personally in it for the reasons above given; my father was invited to take the treasurership of the institution, and for the sake of identifying himself with the men and women who had commenced the conflict with slavery in the United States, he gave up his business in London, made a winter passage with his wife and seven children, crossed the Alleghanies in sleighs and reached Oberlin in February 1841, continuing there until 1864. For myself, I have never had occasion to regret that he took this important step. I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully & respectfully,

Hamilton A. Hill

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq.